

31398 to 31400. NICOTIANA TABACUM L.**Tobacco.**

From the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico. Presented by Mr. Lewis W. Haskell, American consul, Salina Cruz, Mexico. Received July 12, 1911.

Seeds of the following; quoted notes by Mr. Haskell:

31398. "I am told that this sample will show three classes:

"(1) *Criollo*, which grows 3 feet or more in height, with about 30 leaves to the flower. From 20 to 24 would be left after topping. Length of leaf 40 to 60 centimeters and a proportionate width, coming to a point. Coarse vein, dark color, and poor quality.

"(2) *Criollo*, which grows about the same size and shape as the above but of a great deal finer quality. Small vein, fine leaf, light weight. Color, colorado or colorado maduro. This is the class largely used in Valle Nacional and San Andres Tuxtla and is much esteemed for its size of leaf and its softness or fineness. It is mixed with the first mentioned to 'add weight.'

"(3) *Cubano* or *Habanero*, which grows somewhat larger than the above, but the leaves are more widely separated and there are but from 14 to 18 left at topping. Leaves almost round; color colorado claro or claro. Is of very fine texture and light weight."

31399. "This came from Acayucan and is the ordinary kind raised there. Acayucan is located on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and is in the State of Vera Cruz."

31400. "As to this variety, the natives hereabouts do not distinguish, so all I can say for it is that it is tobacco seed. It comes from the vicinity of Modias Aguas on the Tehuantepec National Railway, which is situated on the Gulf slope of the Isthmus. No tobacco is grown on this, the Salina Cruz side of the Isthmus."

31401. ACANTHOSICYOS HORRIDA Welw.**Narras.**

From Walfisch Bay, Africa. Presented by Mr. Richard Hörnig, Farm Sachsen, Tsumeb, German Southwest Africa. Received July 8, 1911.

"A plant belonging to the same family as the squash, which it somewhat resembles. It is an important dune former, and continues to grow with the increasing height of the dune, so that its younger shoots remain at the surface, forming a dense, thorny shrub, while the root system penetrates to a considerable depth, tapping the underground water and securing such a supply that drops exude and fall from the cut ends of assimilating stems.

"Old stems buried in the accumulating sand become as stout as one's arm and ensheathed in a thick layer of corrugated cork, obviously serving in part as water storers. The plant is unisexual and each dune apparently contains a single individual, for the two sexes are never found together.

"Flowering commences in November and by the middle of February the female plants produce ripe fruits, which are borne in great profusion, and for about four months in the year render the Hottentots independent of other sources of food and, to a large extent, of water also. The fruits are spheroidal in shape and about 9 inches in diameter. The juicy yellow flesh is much relished by the natives, who consume large quantities of it while fresh and lay by a store for winter use in the form of hard, flat cakes obtained by evaporation. Its food value is attested by their fat and sleek appearance during the narras season.

"The faculty of enjoying the juice evidently has to be acquired, for it has a sweet, sickly flavor and contains an acid principle very irritating to the tongue and palate of those unaccustomed to it; it is said that at the end of the narras season the lips of even the habitual consumers are swollen and inflamed. The seeds, which somewhat